

KENTUCKY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

February 13, 2007, Minutes
Berry Hill Mansion Music Room
700 Louisville Road
Frankfort, Kentucky

I. Call to Order

Mr. George Burkley, Chair, Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB), called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m.

A. Roll Call

The following members were present: Ms. Sharon Bird, Mr. George Burkley, Mr. Don Doty, Representative Ted Edmonds, Executive Director Andrew Frauenhoffer, Secretary of State Trey Grayson, Ms. Kimberly Maffet, Dr. Michael McCall was represented by his proxy Dr. Keith Bird, Senator Vernie McGaha, Mr. Bill Parson, (Retired) General James Shane, and Ms. Sue Tamme.

The following members were absent: Mayor Jerry Abramson, Ms. Lisa Araya, Senator Charlie Borders, Representative Larry Clark, Ms. Dixie Hamblin, Judge/Executive Bill May, Mr. Michael Simpson, Ms. Nancy Spivey.

B. Establishment of Quorum

While initially only 9 members were present, by 10:45 with the late arrival of three additional members, the quorum of 11 members was surpassed with 12 members or proxies present.

C. Comments

Mr. Burkley noted the following:

- He and Elizabeth Hack had attended the January national meeting of state workforce board chairs and directors in Washington, D.C. and had found it very educational. The theme from DOL as expressed by Mason Bishop, DOL/ETA's Deputy Assistance Secretary, was that the current workforce development system is not the model for the future. Instead, a creative and technology driven model attached to economic development must be developed. Local and inter-state regionalism is a theme of the future with an emphasis on sector strategies, skill panels, and clusters and includes input from business and education. WIRED initiatives are moving forward and there will be opportunities for more states to participate.
- Mr. Burkley called attention to the summary of a research article titled *Tough Choices or Tough Times* and asked Dr. Keith Bird to summarize the full report by the same title. Dr. Bird stressed the appropriateness of the title and noted that the current system for workforce development is not adequate. He also referenced another report titled *America's Perfect Storm* that discusses a combination of demographic factors leading to a need for higher skills and new ways of approaching workforce preparation.

- Mr. Burkley introduced two U.S. Department of Labor representatives from Atlanta, Ms. Terri Lonowski, Federal Project Officer, and Mr. Andrew Gill, Chief, Division of Workforce Investment, Office of State Systems, and asked them to speak to the KWIB.
 - Mr. Gill noted his appreciation for the state of Kentucky and mentioned multiple visits, some with his family, to the state. He acknowledged Susan Craft's assistance in providing information in a very timely manner. He mentioned resources available to help compete in the global economy and noted that local and state boundaries should not limit cooperation. He then introduced Ms. Lonowski as the replacement for Elaine Parker who had served as DOL's representative to Kentucky for many years.
 - Ms. Lonowski expressed her delight at being in Kentucky, that she had previously served on the Nebraska State Workforce Investment Board, and that she remained on national boards for Career and Technical Education and the American Counseling Association where she is one of four trustees. She provided some details about her previous experience including work with career pathways and expressed her desire to be of service to Kentucky.

II. Action Items

D. The November 14, 2006, KWIB meeting minutes were approved as presented.

E. Committee Reports

- Awareness Committee: Ms. Sharon Bird, committee chair, gave a brief report on visits that she and Secretary of State Trey Grayson had made to EKCEP where they had toured local offices and observed processes through which services are provided to clients.
- Accountability Committee: Ms. Kimberly Maffet reported that the Accountability Committee had met earlier on February 13, 2007. She noted that the Kentucky unemployment rate was down to 5.3 percent but was still above the national average. She noted that the document included in the agenda packet, *Quick Glance at Kentucky's Economy*, is still evolving as they try to quantify the most meaningful data. They want to understand how much is being spent per person served as well as Wagner Peyser and Perkins funding.

III. Panel Discussion: Strategic Workforce Partner Initiatives

Mr. Burkley introduced the panel members and asked each to summarize workforce development initiatives underway by their respective organizations. The panel members were Dave Adkisson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Keith Bird, Chancellor, Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS); Deborah Clayton, Commissioner, Department of Commercialization and Innovation (DCI), Economic Development Cabinet; Rodney Kelley, Director, Career and Technical Education, Kentucky Department of Education; and Beth Smith, Commissioner, Department for Workforce Investment, Education Cabinet. Brief biographical sketches are attached. A summary of their comments follows:

Beth Smith, Commissioner, Department for Workforce Investment, Education Cabinet:

- Through the Department for Workforce Investment, she is involved in BRAC as chair of a sub-committee on workforce development. Multiple organizations are represented on that sub-committee and she draws on the expertise of these organizations.
- A proposal for the WIRED program is under development. Information will be sent to KWIB and LWIA members requesting their assistance in planning, partnering, and implementing the program.
- She emphasized the need for collaboration rather than working in separate silos in the reauthorization process.
- Regarding the one-stops, she stated the need to continuously work to reduce duplication of services and to find ways to address local needs when some partners can provide only part-time services.
- A new state plan for Perkins Act programs is due by mid-April. Area Technology Centers, the Kentucky Department of Education, KCTCS, and universities that offer associate-level programs participate in Perkins programs.
- Regarding the Wolf Creek Dam, she noted that each of Kentucky's cabinets has plans to work with the area impacted by the Dam project. The plans include three tiers of possible needed action, depending on how low the water must be lowered and the distant possibility of a dam breach.

Deborah Clayton, Commissioner, Department of Commercialization and Innovation (DCI), Economic Development Cabinet:

- Having been in Kentucky for only a short period of time, Ms. Clayton noted her interest in coming because Kentucky had all the pieces in place to address and move forward with economic development.
- She noted the following:
 - The Department of Commercialization and Innovation's support of legislation regarding the use of advanced technologies;
 - The importance of sector strategies and innovation;
 - Two pools of funds available to accomplish activities;
 - The importance of public/private partnerships throughout the state, in both urban and rural areas;
 - The focus on high-tech start ups;
 - Initiatives underway with several phases, strict qualifications, and support from state funding. Several applications have been received. The grants awarded will be significant and adequate for start-up needs.
 - Additional information is available at <http://www.thinkkentucky.com/dci>
 - Strong clusters have been identified in Kentucky;
 - The bio sciences and nano sciences are being pursued;
 - A state wide data base will be established to support multiple initiatives and to provide information about what is happening in Kentucky; and
 - Other initiatives are underway including business and tax incentive programs.

Dr. Keith Bird, Chancellor, Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS):

- Noted that he had worked with JTPA in Pennsylvania under then Governor Sununu;
- That KCTCS is the product of Kentucky's state education initiatives and efforts toward collaboration and elimination of duplication, leading to the system of community and technical colleges;
- In addition to campus enrollments totaling 88,000, KCTCS also has a strong web presence;
- That 47 percent of undergraduate students in Kentucky are enrolled at KCTCS;
- KCTCS maintains strategic partnerships with universities, the Governor's office, Bluegrass State Skills, and the Education Cabinet;
- They are working on pipe-line issues including math and science and dual credit courses;
- They have found that one year of postsecondary education culminating in a certificate leads to success for many individuals;
- KYWINS (a workforce training incentive program), the KEC (Kentucky Employability Certificate), and KMSS (Kentucky Manufacturing Skills Standards) provide general employability skills, information, and a credential;
- More certificates than associate degrees are awarded;
- KCTCS works with various LWIBs in such projects as mining simulation equipment and developing new curricula;
- KCTCS works with career pathways in health careers, fire and rescue training, computer information technology, automotive industry, etc.;
- After spending nine years building the community and technical college system, KCTCS' goal is to go to the next level in collaboration with business and economic development.

Rodney Kelley, Director, Career and Technical Education, Kentucky Department of Education:

- Noted that new high school graduation requirements have been approved;
- The new requirements include four years of math, to include algebra I, algebra II, and geometry;
- The new graduation requirements include four credits in a career area of interest;
- All students will have individual learning plans with a career pathway focus;
- There is an emphasis on reducing drop-out rates;
- High school students will be required to take the ACT test, funded by the state, and they may take the Work Keys assessment;
- Career and Technical Education is provided for middle and high school students;
- 14 different career clusters are available, offering sequences of courses;
- These are supported by the state Perkins Plan;
- Career and Technical Education works with KCTCS to align high school and postsecondary courses and credentials in information technology (IT), engineering technology;
- Currently 19 high schools offer the engineering technology curriculum;

- The Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) provides funding to support these initiatives;
- Jobs for Kentucky Graduates is a WIA funded program for at-risk students with a 95 percent graduation rate.

Dave Adkisson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce:

- Noted his experience in Owensboro in economic development that was a precursor of that Local Workforce Investment Board;
- In that situation, he participated in developing a screening process to identify the skills of potential employees that later served to draw several larger companies to the area, both in Kentucky and Indiana;
- That he had served on the Workforce Investment Board in other states.
- He noted that the Chamber of Commerce is a business association for both big and small businesses;
- There are 85 local Chambers of Commerce in Kentucky that reach more than 25,000 businesses throughout the state;
- These Chambers are a powerful means for supporting policy initiatives;
- The state Chamber has been a strong advocate for public higher education;
- As a state-wide organization, the state Chamber doesn't conduct programs;
- Local Chambers do conduct programs at their individual localities;
- At the state level, the focus is on policy issues, where they do the following:
 - Lobbying (Kentucky Chamber has five lobbyists on staff);
 - Research (for example, how much has Kentucky invested in education);
 - Join with other organizations (i.e., the League of Cities) regarding statewide issues such as retiree benefits;
 - Support programs that help teachers be better (i.e., base teacher pay on student outcomes or results);
- A new initiative is a study by blue-ribbon corporate leaders of how higher education is doing following its reorganization;
- The Chamber is hosting a workforce summit in conjunction with KCTCS on "Great Ideas for Kentucky" linking to employers and asking questions about what the businesses want and need.

Following the presentations, KWIB members asked what Kentucky is doing regarding *Tough Choices* and what the KWIB can do or what value the KWIB can add to the processes.

Mr. Adkisson noted that the P-16 Council and KCTCS are breaking down barriers.

Mr. Kelly noted additional student assessment programs that help students and their parents make plans and identify areas where help is needed by the student. He asserted that career education is important for everyone and that it does not indicate low-level academic abilities or needs.

Dr. Bird emphasized curriculum and alignment as well as early engagement by students, the importance of applied information and applied science, teacher preparation and teacher training. He also called attention to the definition of region and restated the need to leverage resources.

In response to the question about how the KWIB can add value to the process, Ms. Clayton emphasized the important of communicating what the various agencies are doing. She stated that KWIB members have power and influence; therefore, they need to communicate what is being done by others in order to leverage resources

Ms. Smith asked for input and feedback from KWIB members regarding sector strategies. She stated that she plans to return to talk with the KWIB about initiatives in which they can be involved.

Mr. Kelly noted that partnerships need to be emphasized at the local levels.

Following the conclusion of the panel discussion, Secretary Grayson reported encouraging news of an initial contract agreement with Com Air.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Bio Information

Dave Adkisson, President & CEO of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce returned to Kentucky in February, 2005, after spending six years as president of the Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce, Alabama. A graduate of Georgetown College, Adkisson earned a masters degree in ethics from Harvard University in 1975. He began his career with the Owensboro Chamber of Commerce, Kentucky, first as project manager and then as the executive vice president. He served as mayor of Owensboro for multiple terms and held several statewide leadership posts. Now he spends his time meeting with business and government leaders across the commonwealth. He is on the boards of the Kentucky World Trade Center, LexArts, United Way of Kentucky and American Chamber of Commerce Executives and is a part of the steering committee for the Partners for Kentucky's Future.

Dr. Keith W. Bird was appointed chancellor of Kentucky's technical colleges on February 12, 1999. He previously served as president of Central Carolina Technical College and New Hampshire Community Technical College at Claremont and Nashua. He also was Deputy Commissioner of the New Hampshire Technical College System. Throughout his career, Dr. Bird has been actively involved in workforce development and higher education/business partnerships. He has played key roles on the national and

regional levels in workforce development and industrial modernization projects and developed a manufacturing extension partnership center for the state of New Hampshire in 1995. Dr. Bird received his B.A. from Alma College and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Duke University. In 1969-70, he studied as a Fulbright Scholar and Duke University Exchange Student at the Free University in Berlin, and as a fellow of the Military History Research Office in Freiburg, funded by the West German Government Academic Fellowship Program, in 1975.

Deborah Clayton was named Commissioner of the Department of Commercialization and Innovation, formerly known as the Office of the New Economy, in June 2005. Before being appointed to her current position, Deborah Clayton served as the founding Executive Director of the Charlotte Research Institute, a non-profit corporation established in support of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Clayton also served previously as the Assistant Director of the electron microscopy facility at the University of Alabama, co-founder, Vice President and COO of a high-tech start-up firm in Chicago, and manager of operations for Argonne National Laboratory's Office of Technology Transfer. She has a bachelor's degree in biology from Tulane University and Newcomb College and a master's degree in higher education administration from the University of Alabama.

Rodney Kelly is the Director of the Division of Career and Technical Education, Kentucky Department of Education. He grew up on a farm in Scott County and attended the University of Kentucky, receiving a M.S. in Vocational Education. He taught Vocational Agriculture before joining the Department of Education in 1978 as a consultant. He served as Director of Agriculture Education for five years prior to accepting his current position as Director of Career and Technical Education, which he has held since 1991. The Division of Career and Technical Education provides leadership and technical assistance to 172 local school districts implementing Career and Technical Education Programs. Assistance is provided in program planning and implementation, facility and equipment planning, and curriculum design in all program areas in secondary schools. The present enrollment in secondary vocational education exceeds 200,000 students.

Beth Smith, commissioner of the Department for Workforce Investment in the Education Cabinet, oversees the workforce development functions of state government through the offices of Career and Technical Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, Employment and Training, and the Office for the Blind. Previously she served as executive director of Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. Before joining state government, Smith was in administration for 20 years at Kindred Healthcare, a nursing home and rehabilitation hospital corporation based in Louisville. She held many positions with Kindred Healthcare, including Administrator and Director of Operations for half of Kentucky. She is a graduate Eastern Kentucky University where she earned a bachelor's degree in business administration.